



Cumberland Island National Seashore

St. Marys, Georgia



Spring 2004

Message from the Superintendent

I would like to thank the entire staff for your hard work and dedication, because that is what allows us to accomplish so much with our limited resources. I have been very impressed with everyone's open and candid suggestions on how to make the park a great experience for our visitors, and a more enjoyable place to work. The ability to communicate with each other and our stakeholders is very important for our success. The Mullet Wrapper is a very important communication instrument for documenting our many accomplishments, and I would like to encourage everyone to submit articles.

We recently had a visit from the Regional Director, Pat Hooks. She was very impressed with the work we are doing here at Cumberland Island, and can't wait to come back and spend more time in the park. We toured the island with two key staff members from Senator Chambliss' office. With the assistance of the Fish and Wildlife Service at Okefenokee, we were able to give them a tour of the island and provide some valuable insight on the many issues affecting the Seashore.

We also had a visit by the regional chief of interpretation, Don Wollenhaupt. Don conducted a review of our interpretive program and will be providing us with a report on how to strengthen the program. One of the things that Don looked at was our exhibit plan for the new visitor center. A number of employees worked on reviewing and making suggestions for the plan, and as a result we will have really nice exhibits for the visitors. The contract for the fabrication of the exhibits has been awarded, and

we will be holding the pre-construction meeting in early July. Because of everyone's hard work we will have delivery of the exhibits very soon after the completion of the new visitor center.

The public comment period ends on June 26, 2004 on the environmental assessments on the both the stabilization of the Dungeness Ruins as well as the Chimneys at Stafford. The maintenance staff is doing an outstanding job putting the finishing touches on the Bachlott house, and everyone is looking forward to moving in and being closer to the waterfront operations. I will be attending the DAB (Design Advisory Board) meeting on the next phase of the restoration of Plum Orchard Mansion in July. We will be doing work on the interior of the structure and the mechanical systems.

Jerre Brumbelow
Superintendent



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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Park Visitor Center:

(912) 882-4335
1-888-817-3421 (Reservations)

Park Headquarters:

(912) 882-4336



Administration

The Thrift Savings Plan open season began April 15, 2004 and extends through June 30, 2004. During this open season you may begin contributing to the TSP or change the amount of your contributions. You may submit TSP-1's for the increase of both CSRS and FERS.

Complete the TSP-1 and submit it to your Servicing Personnel Office. You can obtain the form either from our office or on the TSP Web site at: www.tsp.gov

There will be a rare open season for enrolling in or changing coverage levels in the Federal Employees Group Life Insurance program in September 2004. This is open only to active employees and certain rehired annuitants but not to retirees. However, the elections and resulting premiums changes will not be effective until the first pay period of September 2005.

Did you know that when you receive a replacement Government charge card, or one with a new expiration date, you should update the new number or expiration date in the Omega Profile System? Follow these simple procedures to update any profile information in the Omega System:

1. Log onto the following web site: <http://www.doitravel.com/>
2. Click on Traveler Profile
3. Scroll down and select DOI PROFILE
4. Follow the instructions for logging into your profile, scrolling through the entire profile and updating any needed information, and submit the information.

This will update your profile immediately with Omega and any changes to your Trip Manager profile within 48 hours. Also, if you have ever received a "9999..." error when booking rental cars in Trip Manager, check to see if you have used a special character in the "Special Remarks to Car Company" section.

2005 FEHB Contract Change

OPM announced a change in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Blue Cross/Blue Shield 2005 plan. The prescription drug mail-service contract will change from Medco Health Solution, Inc., to Caremark, RX, Inc. next January.

Many thanks to Information Technology Specialist Brad Naylor from Everglades NP for a very productive two-week detail. Kudos Brad! He will join our staff permanently at the end of July.

The Office of Personnel Management urges Government agencies to take advantage of hiring flexibilities. We have used a college scholars program to recruit Administrative Assistant Justin Helton in Administration. A similar hiring tool was used to hire Adam Blair in Maintenance. Please read

Editor's Note

This edition of the Mullet Wrapper may look a little different than previous editions because we have redesigned the newsletter to incorporate the new National Park Service Graphic Design Standards. The changes include a standardized layout, new arrowhead design and new fonts. The new NPS Graphic Design Standards are an implementation action identified in Director's Order 52A "Communicating the National Park Service Mission". We believe that the design provides a cleaner, crisper look and hope that it contributes to the goal of strengthening the National Park Services' identity. If you would like to comment on the new design, please feel free to email the park at cuis_superintendent@nps.gov.

a short bio on both Justin and Adam in this issue of the *Mullet Wrapper*.

"It is amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit." — Harry S. Truman

Until next time.....

julie

Administrative Officer

Meet Justin Helton. He is the new editor of the *Mullet Wrapper* and is working as an Administrative Assistant. He was hired by using the Office of Personnel's Student Career Experience Program [SCEP] program. He was born and raised in Newport News, Virginia and graduated from Jamestown High School in Virginia. Justin has a BA in Graphic Design from Virginia Tech. He attends Coastal Georgia Community College where he is working toward meeting the requirements of the SCEP.



This is J. Adam Blair originally from Tellico Plains, Tennessee. He attended high school in Atlanta and has a Bachelor's Degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Science from the University of Tennessee.



Adam spent the past two years working seasonally for the US Forest Service in the Chattahoochee National Forest near Helen, Georgia. He worked on trail maintenance, compliance, fee collection and on various wildlife projects.

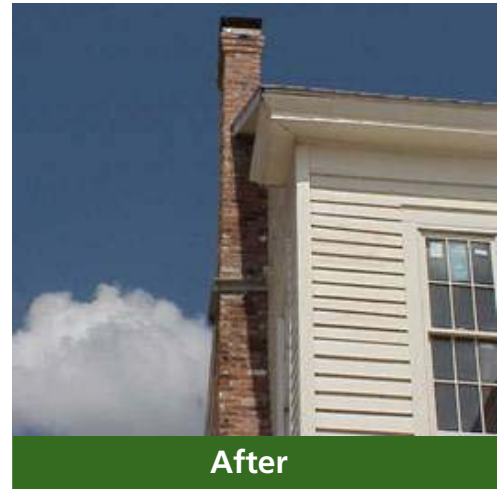
Maintenance Division

Catheryn Rummer has accepted a seasonal fire position with BLM in Wyoming. She starts there in early June.



BACHLOTT HOUSE -

The finishing touches are being put on the Bachlott House by CUIS staff. Hopefully we will be able to move in sometime in July. The chimney finally has received its face lift and is straight.

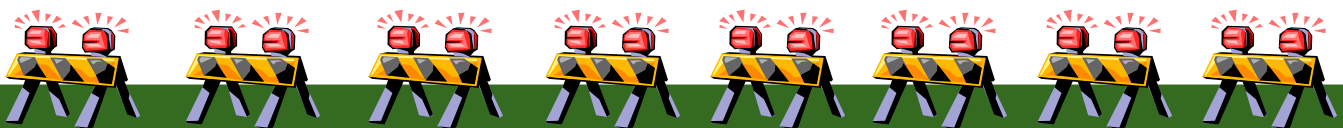


PLUM ORCHARD

A no name wind storm last month caused the Canary Island date palm at Plum to snap. Also known as the Phoenix Palm. My guess is it was over a hundred years old.



Pictured at the left is the water tower at Plum Orchard. Its location is on the Butler property a couple of hundred yards north. It was taken down in the late seventies in pieces. It was thought that it was a safety hazard and was due to fall soon. Similar water towers existed at Dungeness and Stafford.



The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.
EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

CONGRATULATIONS

In recognition of thousands of hours of volunteer service and commitment to the National Park Service's VIP program, Bernie and Mary Huber have been selected as the winner of the Southeast Region Volunteer of the Year Award. Their award includes a letter from NPS director Fran Minella and a plaque from the Southeast Region. They also received a letter from the President recognizing each of them for serving over 4000 volunteer hours.

Cumberland Island National Seashore will host an evening dinner (TBA) to honor the dedication and commitment that Bernie and Mary have demonstrated in many aspects of park operations. Their contributions include: ongoing restoration of Plum Orchard Mansion, assisting in interpretive tours and informal visitor contacts, responding to emergencies, assisting with horse counts, turtle monitoring, school groups, and spontaneous backcountry visitor contacts. In addition they monitor water quality for the island residents, as well as help with archeological and other resource inquiries. All this they do with eagerness and enthusiasm. In fact, they are always generous with their time and efforts and we indeed salute them.

Kudos and Salutations Bernie and Mary.

WE THANK YOU,

MANY THANKS ALSO TO OUR NUMEROUS VOLUNTEERS WHO SERVE CUMBERLAND ISLAND THROUGH STAFFING THE MAINLAND MUSEUM AND ASSISTING IN MANY OTHER PARK PROJECTS.

Interpretive Programs: This summer look for expanded interpretive programs on the island. During the Month of July and August we will be doing evening campfire programs on Saturday nights at 7:00pm, and will be doing a variety of ranger led programs each afternoon at 1:30pm. Activities will include arts and crafts, nature activities and culture clues.

Exhibit News: Take a walk on the River Trail and learn more about how the native Tacatacuru used the island plants for food, medicine, shelter, and transportation. Trail markers along the trail highlight each plant and a brochure explains its uses.

Also, visit the marsh boardwalk to check out the new wayside exhibit which highlights the significance of our tidal marshes.

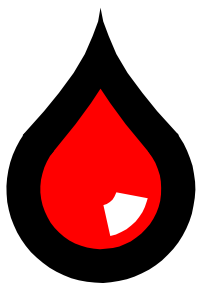
Cumberland Island Volunteer Fire Department



On May 13, eight island residents, including three NPS staff completed the classroom portion of their structural firefighter training. As a donation, Greyfield Inn constructed an engine bay to meet the specifications required to house the Camden County fire engine. The new station will be known as Camden County Station #20, Cumberland Island Volunteer Fire Department. Pictured are David Burkes (Camden County instructor), Jerre Brumbelow (Cumberland Island National Seashore Superintendent), Frank Sorrells (Georgia Forestry Commission test administrator), Dennis Parsons (Chief Ranger, Cumberland Island National Seashore), and trainees Gladwyn Ulitalo, Jay Miller, Dawn Greenlee, Eric Ulitalo, Sandra Henderson, Rene Noe, Ryanne Campbell. (Trainee Marc McDermott is not pictured.)

We've also completed the final review for the new Visitor Center Exhibits. The island's rich natural and cultural heritage is artfully woven into the exhibits, which provide an excellent glimpse into the mysteries and timelessness of Cumberland Island. An introduction, if you will, into how the island has shaped the lives of its people, and how people, over centuries of time, add another chapter in the story of Cumberland Island National Seashore.

Ginger Hollingsworth-Cox



FLORIDA GEORGIA BLOOD ALLIANCE

To better serve their Southeast Georgia Donors they have changed their Camden/Chariton Donor Center's Hours:

Monday: 10am - 6pm

Tuesday: 10am - 6pm

Wednesday: 8am - 5pm

Thursday: 8am - 5pm

Friday: 7am - 5pm

Saturday: 10am - 2pm

Closed Sundays

Questions, call:

(912) 576 - 6855

Located in the
WalMart Shopping Center



On February 18, eight NPS staff completed Emergency Medical Response training. (Rene Noe is not in this picture, but she was also in the class). From left to right: Two Red Cross Instructors, then Pauline Wentworth, Edward O'Connell, Ginger Cox, Brian Wentworth, Bernie Huber, Dawn Greenlee, and Bert Rhyne.

Two Draft Environmental Assessments (EA) have been released for a 30-day public comment period. The public comment period extends from May 26th to June 26th. The public may request a copy of one or both of the draft environmental assessments by calling the Cumberland Island National Seashore offices at (912) 882-4336, ext. 226 or downloading them at www.nps.gov/cuis under Management Documents. Comments on the EA's should be prepared separately and must be delivered or postmarked no later than 6/25/2004

Long Leaf Pines



Back Row: Steve Owens (Little Cumberland Island Superintendent), Dale D. Wade, PhD (Retired Fire Ecology and Fire Behavior Researcher, US Forest Service, Southeast Experiment Station), William Dopson (Forester, Little Cumberland Island Resident), Dawn Greenlee (Fire Management Officer, Cumberland Island National Seashore), Sharon Hermann, PhD (Ecology Professor, Auburn University, Former Ecologist, Tall Timbers Research Station), Jason Greenlee, PhD (Fire Management Officer, Osceola National Forest), Dennis Parsons (Chief Ranger, Cumberland Island National Seashore).
Front Row: Malcolm Hodges (State Office, Atlanta, The Nature Conservancy), Carol Ruckdeschel (Biologist, Cumberland Island Resident), John Fry (Chief of Resource Management, Cumberland Island National Seashore), Alison McGee (Botanist, The Nature Conservancy, Georgia), Kenneth Outcalt PhD (Fire Ecology and Fire Behavior Researcher, US Forest Service, Southeast Experiment Station, Athens, GA).

Longleaf pine experts and island residents joined the National Park Service (see group photo) in an effort to determine the historic natural extent of longleaf pine stands on Cumberland Island. There was a consensus among the participants that expansive open pine stands historically dominated most of the north end of the island and that we would eventually like some of these areas to return to that natural condition.

The density of longleaf pines on many of our sites is near what it would naturally have been. It's just hard to see the pines through the canopy of oaks that has been able to develop during the past century of fire exclusion. The understory herb and wiregrass cover that would have historically been thick on these sites is reduced in areas tilled for agriculture and it is in even further decline throughout the area because of shading from the developing oaks. In the long term, fire use (lightning fires) alone may be sufficient to halt and reverse the oak encroachment on some areas but management activities like prescribed burning and oak girdling may be needed to augment fire use to prevent further loss of understory plants on others.

Raking thick duff away from remnant pines and finishing fuel treatments around structures were both seen as good ways to prepare for future implementation of fire use fire plans.

Dawn Greenlee



With this most recent (and certainly missed) issue of the Mullet Wrapper, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce the new rangers on Cumberland Island, Eric Ulitalo, George Lewis, and myself, Dennis Parsons.

Eric comes to us with a great deal of previous experience from Jean Lafette and before that Salem Maritime Natural Historic Site. George is new to the Park Service and recently completed his training. I am the new Chief Ranger coming from Gulf Islands National Seashore. Eric, George, and I are commissioned law enforcement rangers who live on Cumberland Island. We look forward to serving the needs of our visitors, as well as the residents of Cumberland Island.

In the visitor center, the new Visitor Use Assistants are Debbie Britt and Ron Crawford. Both Debbie and Ron are from the local area. Debbie has her own business and Ron transferred from the maintenance division. They make a great addition to the current staff, which includes Pat Campbell and Pauline Wentworth.



In Interpretation, we have Ginger Hollingsworth-Cox who is just completing her first year and Rene Noe who is beginning her third decade. Ginger and Rene will combine their experience and knowledge to give the visitors an exciting view of the island and its history.

Dawn Greenlee is the park's Fire Management Officer who has years of wild land firefighting experience as well as a smoke jumper. She is organizing the island Volunteer Fire Department and developing the island's Wildfire Management Plan.

I recently went to Okmulgee, OK to meet with representatives from the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Thlopthlocco Tribal Town, and Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town to discuss the Greyfield land swap and the impact it may have on Indian artifacts. It was an interesting and informative meeting.

Brian Wentworth, maintenance mechanic and able seaman, instructed Eric Ulitalo, Dawn Greenlee and I on navigating the creeks and rivers without running aground. I hope that we paid close attention! Thanks



Brian for taking a Saturday to show us the way.

On Memorial Day, a private plane made an emergency landing on the beach near South Cut. The pilot stated the engine failed just after take off from Jekyll Island forcing him to land on the beach. Because of the landing the aircraft suffered damaged but neither the pilot nor his passenger were injured. A salvage service dismantled the plane and removed it from the island. Eric, George, and Rene did a great job handling the incident.

The G8 summit turned out to be a quiet event. Many of you were aware of the additional rangers on the island as well as their presence on the ferry. They were a special detail of law enforcement rangers from the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, whose professionalism and teamwork was unparalleled.

Dennis Parsons
Chief Ranger

RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Natural Resources Inventories –

This spring and summer the Park has been extremely active with researchers conducting baseline inventories of the island's natural resources. The work is part of the Service-wide Natural Resource Challenge (NRC), with the basic inventories designed to provide both a solid understanding of each park's resources and the information to make scientifically sound decisions.

To facilitate this segment of the NRC the parks have been divided into 32 Inventory and Monitoring (I&M) Networks. Cumberland Island National Seashore is one of seventeen parks in the Southeast Coast I&M Network. The inventory work currently underway on the island is being conducted by several regional universities and includes: plants – University of Georgia; fish – Auburn University; bats – University of Florida; and mammals – University of North Carolina at Wilmington.

To learn more about the Natural Resource Challenge and the Inventory and Monitoring Program visit these web sites: <http://www.nature.nps.gov/challenge/> and <http://science.nature.nps.gov/im/>.

Sea Turtles – The nesting season for loggerhead sea turtles has gotten off to a remarkably slow start on Cumberland Island, with only 13 confirmed nests as of June 15. In comparison, in the month of May alone last year the island had 53 nests. The situation is not unique to Cumberland, as nesting activity is low to this point throughout the state and reportedly the same in North and South Carolina as well. This follows a record year in 2003 for loggerheads in both Georgia and Cumberland

Island, where 1504 and 323 nests were documented respectively. Wildlife biologists with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) are uncertain of the cause for the weak beginning to the season or if the trend will continue.

Despite the slow conditions the island's monitoring program is well underway, with Sam Truesdell and Kelly Blackburn on board as the first Turtle Tech's. Supported through the Student Conservation Association, Sam is from Worcester, Massachusetts and Kelly is from Thomasville, Georgia. The team has gotten a lot of early field support and guidance from Resource Management Technician, Bert Rhyne.

The Turtle Tech's and other park personnel have been assisting wildlife biologists from the Georgia DNR with the implementation of their study on inter-nesting habitat use, migratory pathways, and post-nesting movements of Georgia's nesting loggerhead turtles. The DNR research will use satellite telemetry to compare the movements of loggerhead turtles with the distributions of commercial fishing and dredging activity. The results will be used to make management recommendations to protect adult loggerhead sea turtles and their habitats. At least five turtles that come ashore on Cumberland Island to nest will be fitted with the satellite transmitters and other tracking devices. As of June 15, four Cumberland Island turtles had been tagged and four more had been tagged on Jekyll Island. The public can monitor the loggerheads' movements by visiting <http://www.seaturtle.org> on the web and following the links to Satellite Tracking and Georgia Loggerhead Tracking Project 2004. The photo below is "Cherokee Rose" leaving the beach on Cumberland Island after

she had successfully nested and been fitted with the tracking gear On May 26. Most of the turtles tagged



on Cumberland will be given names submitted by Camden County school students.

Feral Hog Eradication – In the sixteen months that it has been underway the park's feral hog eradication program has removed 634 hogs from Cumberland Island, largely through the quiet, dedicated effort of Biological Technician Edward O'Connell. Hogs and their telltale signs are much less visible on the island, particularly on the beach where in the past they have been a tremendous threat to sea turtle nests. Nonetheless, there are still significant pockets and populations which the program will continue to



pursue. If you see hogs or hog activity please contact Edward on the island or John Fry at 882-4336, x262.

John Fry
Resource Manager

Out
with
the
old
In

St Marys' Waterside Getting Face Lift



If you live or work in downtown St. Marys, you can't help but notice the major face lift that the waterside is currently undergoing.

The project has been in the works since 1984 when the Development Concept Plan was initiated to build a bigger and better Visitor Center. Early in the planning process, the National Park Service realized that it was important to open up the waterfront area so that more of the river was visible. The National Park Service also made mention of replicating the historic Miller's Dock with an awareness of the architecture of the neighboring city



park. The Superintendent has related the excitement of the city surrounding this project as well as how proud the employees of the park are to be preparing to work in the new center.

The groundbreaking ceremony took place on November 10th, 2003. Attendance at the event included U.S. Representative Jack Kingston, Superintendent Jerre Brumbelow, and many officials of St. Marys. Actual construction began in October of 2003 and the projected completion date is October of 2004. Throughout the project, the park has remained in partnership with the City of St. Marys as well as the City Council members, the Mayor, the City Manager, and various other local agencies.

The new Visitor Center will house new exhibits, restrooms, offices, a covered area for visitors to wait for the ferry while indulging in either a Park Ranger oral presentation or a video presentation. Superintendent Brumbelow is most enthusiastic about being able to provide an enjoyable and knowledgeable experience to those visitors to St. Marys who may not have the time to visit the island. When construction is completed, Cumberland Island National Seashore will be the proud owner of a two story, 4,500 square foot Visitor Center that meets the standards of the National Park Service along with making the waterfront a more beautiful place.

Justin Helton



With The New!

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

The Mystery of the Plum Orchard Squash Court

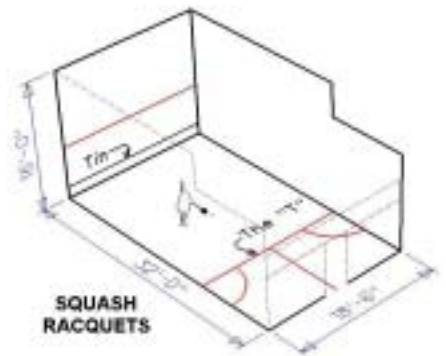
It was a dark and stormy night in 1904 . . . followed by a bright sunny day. Two men wearing all-white clothing walk onto an enclosed court to play a match. Carrying their wooden racquets and a single ball, they enter through an opening in the court's side wall and look up at the sun coming through the skylight. Similar to others of its kind, the court nevertheless presents some eccentric details. Spectators look down from the balcony as the battle begins, five games of fifteen points each are fought, and the match ends with a winner and a loser.

George Lauder Carnegie added this squash court to his Plum Orchard estate in the winter of 1903/1904. At the time this racquet sport was all the rage among the privileged classes. Decades later the family of the owner, long since passed away, decides to do something magnanimous—giving the estate, and its unique court, to Cumberland Island National Seashore. But the doors are then locked, and the public at-large never gets a chance to play on the court. Yet, if allowed, would anyone know how play the sport? By 1972 no one seemed to recognize the original purpose of the court, designed for a forgotten sport of “squash.”

Dumb Luck

Perhaps the hardest mystery to solve is one that everyone assumes is no mystery. In *Henry V* (act 1, scene 2), the Dauphin sends Henry a gift of tennis balls, and Henry replies with a series of puns on tennis terminology. These puns go over the head of the modern reader. Why? Because today's game of “tennis” (properly called *lawn tennis*) is very different from the game called “tennis” four hundred years ago (today called either *real* or *court tennis*). People easily assume Shakespeare referred to today's game of tennis. What did “squash” mean to Mr. Carnegie in 1903?

Where there is no apparent mystery, its solution first begins with dumb luck. After my only visit to Cumberland Island years ago, I became somewhat curious of the history of its estates. With a little research I found copies of the original plans for Plum Orchard that included a room labeled simply “squash court.” I had vaguely heard of squash, but it meant little to me at the time. I filed the court away in my memory. A little over a year ago I started to play squash. It was then the dumb luck began, because I found out that “squash” today is technically a nickname for *squash racquets*. But a century ago there were two different games of “squash.” Squash racquets was just coming onto the American scene; and something called *squash tennis* was booming in popularity. I recognized a mystery: What kind of “squash” court does Plum Orchard have? I had to do some real research to solve it, starting with the background of the sports.



Standard Deviations

Squash racquets began in Harrow School, England, around 1865 as a variant of an older sport called *rackets*. Students played with a soft rubber ball (it would squash when hit) in alleys, small courtyards, or any space available. Eventually the sport and the court became more standardized. A quick look in a reference book shows that a standard American squash racquets court is 18½ by 32 feet.

At St. Paul's School in Concord, NH, in 1883, the first rackets court in America was built. However, by opening day, the rackets equipment had not yet arrived from England. Students improvised by using lawn tennis equipment. Soon this new game of squash tennis became formalized by adults in Boston. It featured, with modifications, the rules of rackets, equipment of tennis, and the court of squash racquets. Research revealed the standard squash tennis court size of 17 by 32½ feet.

I went back to the Plum Orchard plans and calculated internal dimensions of 16 by 34 feet. (A later survey showed the actual dimensions to be 15'-2½" by 32'-7"). The court met neither sport's standard. So I again looked in the history books and found that the United States Squash Racquets Association had no standard in 1903; they adopted the current size in 1920. The National Squash Tennis Association (NSTA) did not set a court standard until 1911. Apparently a hundred years ago every squash court, like every golf course, was a little different. So

I realized that court dimensions would not help with the mystery.



Back

The "T" to the Mystery

Looking at the rules of both squash racquets and squash tennis, I finally found the key to solving the mystery, the floor. Although the rules are

identical, a noticeable difference is the service. In squash racquets (as in rackets) the server strikes the ball against the front wall, and it must then bounce on the opposite hand of the court **in the back**. In squash tennis (similar to lawn tennis, imagining the net as the front wall) the ball must bounce on the opposite hand of **in the front** of the court. For this reason a squash racquets court has the back of the court divided into two sections, while a squash tennis court divides the front of the court. These floor lines are called the "T" because of their shape. So the "T" for one sport is the opposite of the other.



Front

The floor lines could reveal the sport for which

the court was designed. Unfortunately, the construction drawings did show floor lines. The building's Historic Structure Report (HSR) only

described

architectural features—not a mention of the lines or other playing features. And in my poor photocopy of the HSR the pictures were unreadable. After writing to Cumberland Island National Seashore, I received a sketch of the floor lines: a "T" with the center-court line runs to the front wall rather than the back. Eureka!—I had solved the mystery of Plum Orchard's **squash tennis** court.

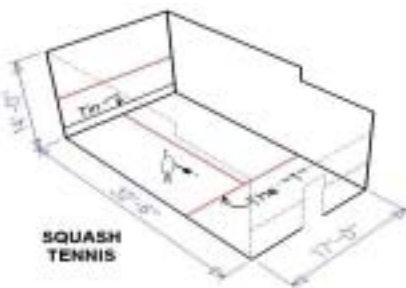
Almost Dead

But the reason why the original use of the court was forgotten is not only due to the architects (Peabody & Stearns of Boston) abbreviating a name on their drawing. Squash tennis, though very popular among high society a hundred years ago, declined rapidly while squash racquets grew. Many have tried to revive the sport, but it is near extinction. Only about ten men still play squash tennis regularly; they meet at the Harvard Club in New York City. It is easy to forget about the court's use, when the sport itself has been forgotten. As squash tennis was played less and less, courts in clubs or estates were converted to other uses. Today, squash tennis courts in good repair are very rare. The Plum Orchard court probably exists today because of its remoteness, there was no pressing need to convert the space.


What did we learn today?

While solving the mystery I learned that the Plum Orchard squash court is an architectural rarity, perhaps the best preserved of its kind. It makes a discrete contribution to the architectural and cultural history of the house. I also learned is that squash tennis is a enjoyable game, one that I have attempted a few times, improvising with a squash racquets court in Atlanta. (To play the game, read Richard Squires' how-to book, *Squash Tennis* [<http://www.gutenberg.net/etext/11550>]). But mostly I learned to be humble and cautious when approaching historic preservation projects. Take the time to learn about special features. Don't assume that today's meaning of a word is the same as in the past. Be aware that historical reports can miss major details. Tread softly before altering anything, even in a space where two men would slam a ball as hard as they could against the walls, and occasionally at each other.

Dennis McCarthy
dennis_mccarthy@nps.gov
2004 June 07



HURRICANE SEASON



2004 Atlantic Hurricane Names

Alex
Bonnie
Danielle
Earl
Frances
Gaston
Hermine
Ivan
Jeanne
Karl
Lisa
Matthew
Nicole
Otto
Paula
Richard
Shary
Thomas
Virginie
Walter

Information obtained through March 2004 indicates that the 2004 Atlantic hurricane season will be an active one. We estimate that 2004 will have about 8 hurricanes (average is 5.9), 14 named storms (average is 9.6), 60 named storm days (average is 49), 35 hurricane days (average is 24.5), 3 intense (category 3-4-5) hurricanes (average is 2.3), 8 intense hurricane days (average is 5.0) and a Hurricane Destruction Potential (HDP) of 100 (average is 71). We expect Atlantic basin Net Tropical Cyclone (NTC) activity in 2004 to be about 145 percent of the long-term average. The probability of U.S. major hurricane landfall is estimated to be 40 percent above the long-period average.

*- Department of Atmospheric Science
Colorado State University*

"Waiting until the last minute to prepare or not believing that hurricanes can hit your community is a huge mistake," said Joe Becker, vice president of response for the American Red Cross.

Hurricane season runs June 1 through November 30 and typically affects areas along the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts in the United States. In 2003 many East Coast residents were stunned when Hurricane Isabel wreaked havoc from North Carolina to Washington D.C., damaging buildings and leaving major power outages in her wake. All told 17 people were killed and more than \$3 billion in damage occurred.

"Somehow people have fallen in to a false sense of security and are not taking steps to prepare," said Becker. "Fortunately, National Hurricane Preparedness Week offers people a reminder to take action now before the disaster occurs."

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric

Administration is predicting an above-normal hurricane season for 2004. According to a press release NOAA is expecting between 12 and 15 tropical storms, with six to eight of them becoming hurricanes. Last year three hurricanes hit the U.S.

The Red Cross recommends the following safety tips to be prepared in case of a hurricane:

Assemble a Disaster Supplies Kit

- Gather emergency supplies including: emergency medications, nonperishable food, a non-electric can opener, bottled water (at least three gallons per day per person), a battery-powered radio, flashlight, extra batteries, extra clothes, important documents, cash and credit cards, a first aid kit and other items for infants, elderly or disabled family members and pets
- Store supplies in a waterproof, easy-to-carry container, such as a plastic tub with handles

Prepare a Personal Evacuation Plan

- Identify an evacuation route ahead of time; discuss with family members
- If advised to evacuate, do so immediately
- In case of evacuation to an American Red Cross shelter, be sure to bring the disaster supplies kit, medications, extra clothing, pillows and blankets and other hygiene and comfort supplies
- Make advance preparations for pets so you can bring them with you when you leave, but remember, due to health department regulations, pets aren't allowed in public shelters

Prepare for High Winds

- Measure windows and obtain shutters or cut plywood to cover each one
- Remove diseased and damaged tree limbs well before a storm strikes
- Strengthen garage doors with vertical support beams made from 2X4s and "L" brackets. Get professional help if needed

- The American Red Cross